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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 147
FEB 3-9, 2015



The Jez Abad CDC Constructed A 50-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Jez Abad Village Pashtun Zarghun. The Flood Protection Wall Safeguards 2000 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

February 11, 2015

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by AECOM.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK (FARAH/GHOR/BADGHIS/HERAT):

- With the support of the Communications & Public Outreach Department and Bala Boluk District Government Communications Plan, 12 district farmers (men) met with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and advocated for support to address pests and plant diseases. Training and material support were provided by DAIL.
- The Governance Department handed over the mixed Komite Sobate Wolesswalis in Pashtun Zarghun, Shindand, Farah Center and Qala-i-Naw and the male KSW in Pusht-e Rod to the respective District Governments. The District Governments pledged to organize and manage future KSW's in order to respond to residents' concerns and problems. The remaining KSWs will be handed over to the District Governments in the remaining target districts by February 18, 2015.
- SIKA-West has observed the continuation of independent female Komite Sobate Wolesswali meetings in Bala Boluk and Pusht-e Rod Districts. These are continuing under the leadership of the Bala Boluk/Pusht-e Rod District Governments and Farah Department of Women's Affairs and no longer receive any logistical or financial support from SIKA-West. District women gathered to discuss and share their community problems; examples include a lack of access to potable water in Massow Village and shortage of educational facilities in Bala Boluk District. The respective District Governments pledged to share these concerns with third party donors and the Farah Provincial Government for further action.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**Grants & Subcontracts Programming**

- CDCs & DDAs currently are implementing 222 projects valued at AFN 299,479,000/USD\$5,989,580 (AFN 50-USD\$1.00) which will serve to improve service delivery to 1,037,004 provincial and district residents across the target districts.
- Our IDLG/MRRD provincial and district partners have completed 251 projects valued at AFN 248,606,940. The actual amount paid for these completed projects is USD\$4,304,827; which have served to benefit 488,265 provincial and district residents.
- Currently, 62 projects, valued at AFN38, 175,784 /USD\$763,515 (AFN 50- USD\$1.00) are under development.
- 43 CDC & DDA milestone payments totaling USD\$171,229 were processed in Pashtun Zarghun, Farah Center, Guzara, Muqur, Qala-i-Naw, Lash Wa Juwayn, Bala Boluk and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Districts supporting IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.
- For further details, please refer to Annex A

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Community Development Department provided Technical Training to 20 (male) CDC foremen and project supervisors in Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur District. Topics included project scheduling, drawings, technical specifications milestone requirements.
- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan a 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Pashtun Zarghun District for 14 (male) government personnel from February 9-10. Subject matter included; Annual Work Plan, Development, Strategic Planning & Procurement Practices. This workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.



The Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor, the DRRD Director and Provincial Council members cut the ribbon at the Projection Completion Ceremony.

Led by the Badghis DRRD and the District Government, Project Completion Ceremonies were held for two completed projects in Qala-Naw (47-Meter Flood Protection Wall & 110-Meter Flood Protection Wall); one project in Muqur (220-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Naw Abad Village). The completed Flood Protection Walls will safeguard 866 homes, 108 jeribs of farmland and four existing culverts from being flooded. *"We appreciate the CDCs who implemented these high quality projects, now it's the residents' responsibility to maintain their projects,"* Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, the Badghis Deputy Provincial Governor.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to six (male) Muqur and Kohsan MRRD District Social Workers and District Government Personnel. This training focused on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 115 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Gina Kan CDC in Farah Center who are constructing a school surrounding wall were advised to mix mortar properly, or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- The Pusht-e Rod and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Government Personnel used the District Government Hotline Number and called to five CDCs to obtain updates on the progress of their projects. For details please refer to Annex D.

FARAH PROVINCE

- SIKA-West Engineers from the Herat HQ Office traveled to Farah Province and inspected the work progress and quality of a 213-meter Surrounding Wall for Gina Kan Boys' School on February 9. The engineers observed that mortar was not being mixed correctly. The CDC was mentored and advised to correct the deficiency, with personnel on site to continue to monitor their performance. Once completed, the Surrounding Wall will provide a safer educational environment for 1140 male students.
- The Pusht-e Rod Komite Sobate Woleswali was held on February 03, 2015. The Pusht-e Rod District Governor, Mr. Mullah Ghawsuddin, expressed his appreciation to the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program for the past support and stated that moving forward the Komite Sobate Woleswali would be conducted without logistical or financial support from the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, the Governance Department conducted a 'Procurement & Financial Management' workshop for 13 (male) governmental staff in Qadis District on February 4-5. Participants learned about procurement procedures, financial planning and budgeting.
- The Qala-e-Naw Komite Sobate Woleswali was held on February 09, 2015. The Deputy Provincial Governor, Mr. Qamaruddin Shakib, thanked the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program and stated that the Qala-e-Naw Komite Sobate Woleswali would now be moving forward without further logistical or financial support from the MRRD/IDLG SIKA-West program.

HERAT PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Government Communications Plan, the Shindand District Governor organized a coordination meeting with line-departments on February 8. As part of the efforts to make the district green, the DAIL agreed to provide free saplings to farmers. Another issue discussed was the transportation fares from Herat City to Shindand District. It was agreed to reduce the transportation fares from 200AFN to 150 AFN.
- The SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel inspected the work progress of the Mir Abad School Surrounding Wall Construction project in Pashtun Zarghun District. No deficiency was observed. The CDC was advised to continue their work based on the project specification. Once completed, the Surrounding Wall will provide a safer environment for 2076 students (1121 boys & 955 girls).

GHOR PROVINCE

- With the support of the Stabilization Department, a Community Gathering was held within Chaghcharan Provincial Center to listen to Shahrak District CDCs comment on the impact of GIRoA led Stabilization Programming. Representatives from Sar Chashma CDC, Gharga Now CDC and Seya Khak CDC commented on the positive role played by the local government in addressing agriculture infrastructure needs and improved access to potable water; which assisted up to 4000 rural families with short term employment and improved access to services.



Date: 02/09/2015 10:49:17 AM Lat: 32.378567 Lon: 62.039380 Alt: 2152.2 ft
SIKA-West Engineers Traveled To Farah Province And Inspected Work Progress And Quality Of A 213-Meter Surrounding Wall For Gina Kan Boys' School On February 9 Providing Support To 1140 Male Students



Date: 02/08/2015 03:55:20 PM Lat: 32.305610 Lon: 62.028973 Alt: 2146.7 ft
The Towsak Bala CDC Constructed A 100-Meter Water Intake In Towsak Village, Farah Center. The Water Intake Will Provide Enough Water For 22,000 Jeribs Of Farmland.



Date: 02/08/2015 02:33:54 PM Lat: 35.080943 Lon: 63.258507 Alt: 2860.2 ft
The Muqur DSW Visiting Work Progress Of A 70-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Mazid Village: Expected To Safeguard 125 Homes And 40 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



Date: 02/08/2015 09:48:45 AM Lat: 34.806613 Lon: 63.437793 Alt: 4300.9 ft
The Zad Saleh CDC Constructing A 75-Meter Flood Protection Wall In Zad Saleh Village, Qadis District: Expected To Safeguard 50 Jeribs Of Farmland And An Existing Road From Being Flooded.

CHALLENGES

- SIKA-West suspended milestone payments for four projects in Farah Center due to existing project deficiencies, which are in need of correction. SIKA-West is sending a HQ team to visit the project sites in order to resolve these deficiencies.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Procurement & Financial Management training will be provided to 36 (male) Qala-i-Naw and Kohsan District Government staff.
- The Bala Boluk, Lash Wa Juwayn, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Muqur and Chaghcharan KSW will be handed over to the respective District Governors.
- Feasibility studies will be launched for 25 projects in Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Farah Center, Muqur, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw.
- Good Governance training will be provided to 30 Farah provincial government staff (15 females & 15 males) in the provincial center on February 11.
- A 'Gender Coordination Workshop' will be held with DoWA, IDLG and the respective District Governors in Farah to evaluate the SIKA-West Gender activities and discuss transition of the program.



SIKA-West Engineers And M&E Personnel Inspecting The Work Progress Of The Mir Abad School Surrounding Wall Construction Project In Pashtun Zarghun District. Once Completed, The Surrounding Wall Will Provide A Safer Environment For 2076 (1121 Boys & 955 Girls) Students



The Gowhar Shad Gharbi CDC Rehabilitating The Kohsan Girls' High School In The Kohsan District Center. Once Completed, 1189 Male Students Will Have A Better Educational Environment.



The Mohajer Abad CDC Constructing A 100-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District: Expected To Safeguard 80 Homes From Being Flooded.



The Nahre Nawab CDC Constructing A Culvert In Nahre Nawab Village, Pashtun Zarghun District: Expected To Improve Access For 1200 Families To The District Center.